(d) whether it is a fact that patent claims extend to all forms of genetically transformed soyabean, regardless of the techniques employed or germplasm involved;

(e) what is the patented gene bombardment technology; and

(f) whether any international patent regime has come into existence due to GATT which would clash with our national rights of protecting our agricultural growth?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (f) A patent granted in the European Union is not applicable in India. Plant varieties are not patentable under Indian laws nor are they required to be made patentable under the TRIPS Agreement (which provides, inter-alia that members may exclude plants and animals from the Scope of patentability) Hence, no international patent regime. on the subjects has come into existence.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(e) Particle bombardment is the method of insertion or DNA stretches or genes into intact cells at high velocity.

India's Gains from GATT

7397. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report published in the 'Economic Times' of April, 14, 1994 under the caption, India to gain little from GATT;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the Asian Development Bank in its report 'Asian Deveopment Outlook 1994' have stated that India and other low income Asian countries are expected to benefit very little from the conclusion of Uruguay Round of Trade Negotiations gaining only 0.5 per cent of the gross domestic product annually;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the other recommendations of the ADB report ; and

(e) what steps Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (e) There are different assessments of the benefits of the Uruguay Round which have been made by the World Bank, the GATT Secretariat, the DECL and the ADB. These estimatates vary largely according to the methodology used, Government is pursuing a policy of energetically promoting exports, and the target for the current year has been fixed at 25 per cent.

Condition of salt miners in Gujarat

7398. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the salt miners in Gujarat are leading a life of abject poverty ;

(b) If so, whether it is a fact that they have to purchase drinking water and medical facilities are unheard of by these people ;

(c) If so, whether it is also a fact that on an average 4.5 to 5 paise of the selling price of Rs. 1-2 per kg. trickle down to these poor people and the rest is appropriated by traders and retailers engaged in the trade ;

(d) If so, whether Governmnet have drawn any plan to ameliorate

the conditions of these salt miners and ; if so, details thereof ; and

(e) by when the plan is likely to be implemented ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Rising number of unemployed youth

7399. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of unemployed youth is to touch 100 million mark by 2000 AD ;

(b) if so, what is the yearly growth of unemployed youth during the Eighth Five Year Plan period ;

(c) what will be the yearly estimated growth of unemployed youth during the Ninth Five Year Plan period ;

(d) what will be the male female, educated uneducated and Rural Urban, unemployed youth ratio during the period ; and

(e) what measures/plans Government is taking to tackle the situation ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR) : (a) to (e) It would not be correct to say that the number of unemployed youth would be 100 million by 2000, A.D. According to estimates made by the Planning Commission, 17 million persons were unemployed and 6 million were severely under employed at the beginning of the Eighth Plan ; net additions to the labour force would be 35 million during the period 1992-97 and 36 million in 1997-2002 ; and, therefore, 94 million persons would be looking for full time employment during the period 1992-2000. The Eighth Plan envisages creation of about 43 million additional employment opportunities during the period 1992-97 and continuation of the strategy during 1997-2002 is expected to create another 48 million employment opportunities during the period 1997-2002, leaving about 3 million unemployed or severely under employed in 2002.

Employment is a thrust area in the Eighth Plan. The Plan emphasises the need for higher rate of economic growth combined with the faster growth of sectors, sub sectors and areas having relatively higher employment potential.

Candidates sponsored by Shahdra Employment Exchange

7400. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that lists of thousands of candidates sponsored by the Shahdra (Delhi) Employment Exchange in the categories of Nursing Attendant and Laboratory Attendant are not being considered by All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi on the plea that the same are totally fake ;

(b) if so, what are the comments of the Director, Employment Exchanges, NCT Delhi on this issue ;

(c) whether there are other such lists which have been sponsored by the Shadra Employment Exchange to various other Employers during the last six months ; and

(d) action contemplated in the matter ?